

PNS SPECIFICATIONS EXPLAINED OR HOW TO FORM YOUR OWN PNS WORKSHOP

PRESENTERS:

Ron Wright, Idaho Transportation Department
Dan Williams, Montana DOT
Jeff Dobson, Roadwise, Inc.

PNS MISSION STATEMENT:

The Pacific Northwest Snowfighters (PNS) Association strives to serve the traveling public by evaluating and establishing specifications for products used in winter maintenance that emphasize safety, environmental preservation, infrastructure protection, cost-effectiveness and performance.

Jeff Dobson – Presented a brief history of the PNS group, which was formed in 1995 due to problems different states were having with deicers. Each state had different specifications, creating a challenge for developing one product that would meet the needs of all.

Ron Wright – The first specifications called for a product of 28½% concentration that would fight corrosion.

Dan Williams – Air and water quality and environmental issues were of concern. In the 1980's, no labs were available to test products. That was when Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia got together to work on this problem.

Someone from New York noted that the Northeast needs a testing laboratory.

Ron Wright – He has worked closely with four or five labs now. A lab wishing to do this testing needs to get EPA certification and follow its criteria for quality assurance as a “recognized lab” in testing corrosion, chemical and brine, **RON - EXPAND?**

Dave Jones – AASHTO has asked that he work on making PNS specifications nationwide, encourage development of sister groups.

Jeff Dobson – Each area is represented to solve problems.

Ron Wright – Common interests are product, delivery, and environmental concerns. Because of differences in jurisdictions and regulatory agencies, need to work with vendors.

Dave Jones – Confidentiality about products and trade secrets is important; building trust between the group and each individual vendor.

Ron Wright described the method he uses for the bid process, including confidential envelopes and “MSDS,” a standard disclosure. Communication is one of the first steps for developing a relationship with a vendor. ITD has become a quality control lab for vendors. Next go to independent labs for product development. Field testing done.

Dave Jones – The main components of PNS are: vendors, chemists, environmentalists, producers, people working out in the field.

Ron Wright – Challenges include specifications for products, a cooperative group that is interested, looking at different products for different specifications, how producers check products. Product may meet specifications, but also must be tested on the roadways. Need to let public know what is happening.

FLIP CHART NOTES:

Questions/Concerns:

Flexible specifications

New products

Consistent production

Salt brine categories

Pros and Cons:

- Communication

- People needed who don't take things personally

- Baby steps

- Done in addition to other work schedules

Performance specifications

Impact on environment

How to Form Group

Identify leader

Invite potential members (travel time a consideration)

Identify rules or jobs

Set a meeting

Invite vendors

Commonalities

Environment:

- General

- Specific

Specifications:

“Living” document

Training for field:

Sampling

Testing

Use

At the Meeting

What are your strengths?

Is there support and commitment?

What are your common concerns?

What are your limitations?

Public Relations

Problem solving